Year	Total expenditure of the Ministry *Rs.(in crores)*	Expenditure on rents *Rs. (in crores)*
1998-99	2073.76	130.53
1999-00	2133.16	139.66
2000-01	2488.85	142.16

The rentals are generally paid in hard currencies, which appreciate from time to time, thereby inflating the Rupee equivalent of the rental. The Ministry has adopted measure to keep the rental liabilities abroad at the minimum.

(c) The Ministry has constructed its own buildings in various countries after acquisition of plots of land. Also a number of built-up properties have been purchased. Presently, the Ministry is formulating plans for construction of Embassy Complexes in several countries and is also in the process of implementing proposals for purchase of built-up properties. These measures will gradually further reduce our rental liabilities abroad.

Verification of claims on Cross-Border terrorism by USA

940. SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH:

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the USA has agreed to verify claims on cross-border terrorism;

(b) if so, the method adopted by U.S.;

(c) whether Government had already given them the list of areas where cross-border terrorism is taking place; and

(d) if so, whether USA has satisfied and has agreed to check the reports given by India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) and (b) it is for the United States to independently assess the implementation of the pledge given to it by President Musharraf on an immediate, visible and permanent end to cross-border infiltration and decide on its method and sources for making that assessment.

(c) and (d) As part of its ongoing counter-terrorism cooperation with the United States through a bilateral Joint Working Group, established in January 2000, the two sides share assessment on infiltration and other indicators of Pakistan's support to cross-border terrorism in India

Russia, UK and USA's efforts to defuse Indo-Pak tension

941. SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Russia, UK and United States have made a number of proposals to India to defuse the crisis and have suggested a number of measures including joint patrolling on LoC;

(b) if so, whether these proposals were rejected by India;

(c) whether India has given any time-frame for Pakistan to stop infiltration before taking any action;

(d) if so, the time given to Pakistan; and

(e) whether any assurance was given to India in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) to (e) President of Pakistan made commitments on January 12, May 27 and June 6 to end cross border infiltration on a permanent basis, not allow the territory of Pakistan to be used for terrorism anywhere in the world and not to allow any organization to indulge in terrorism in the name of Kashmir.

There is support for India's position that should Pakistan be serious about implementing its commitments, joint border patrolling provides and effective bilateral mechanism for control and verification.

Several countries, including Russia, UK and US have called for reduction in tension. They have also emphasised that ending cross border infiltration and terrorism by Pakistan was a necessary condition for such reduction in tension.

Creation of a separate department for overseas Indians

942. SHRI RAJNATH SINGH 'SURYA' :Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal for creating a separate Department in his Ministry to look after the problems and interests of overseas Indians;